

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 7-28 remain in this application. Claims 10-13, 16-18, 21-22 and 27-28 have been withdrawn by the examiner. Claims 20 and 23 were amended in a previous response.

The claims currently pending include 2 independent claims that are reproduced below with emphasis added:

7. In the **method** of protecting foundry molds from eroding and pitting during sandcasting by preventing adherence of molding sand to mold pattern surfaces, wherein a **pattern coating composition** is applied to the mold pattern surfaces in an **amount sufficient to form a coating thereon** which prevents adherence of sand to the mold pattern, the improvement comprising **coating the mold pattern surfaces with a pattern coating composition** comprising vegetable oil and a viscosity reducer selected from the group consisting of mineral seal oil, alcohol and mixtures thereof.

23. A **method** for facilitating release of molding sand from mold pattern surfaces comprising **applying to the mold pattern surfaces** an effective amount of a biodegradable **pattern coating composition**, wherein the biodegradable pattern coating composition comprises vegetable oil,

a viscosity reducer selected from the group consisting of petroleum oil, alcohol and mixtures thereof, and

optionally a fatty acid.

Applicants' invention relates to a pattern coating composition that is applied to mold pattern surfaces to facilitate release of molding sand from mold pattern surfaces. The reference cited by the Examiner (CN 1069432) discloses binders for molds and cores wherein the binders include petroleum pitch and vegetable oil residue. The compositions disclosed in the '432 reference, therefore, relate to binders and not pattern coating compositions. Even though the binder compositions disclosed in the '432 reference are described as improving the separation of the

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cast part from the sand mold, this is insufficient to render the claims of the present application, directed to a method of protecting foundry molds by applying a pattern coating composition, obvious.

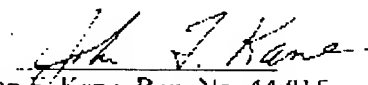
In the advisory action the examiner maintains that the claims do not refer to a release composition. However, the claims do refer to pattern coating compositions which are the same as release compositions. Furthermore, the examiner argues that the binder composition in the prior art improves release of sand from the mold pattern. While this may be true, this does not lead to the conclusion that the binder is a pattern coating composition. The binder is mixed with the sand. The binder is not applied to the mold pattern surfaces in an **amount sufficient to form a coating thereon** as set forth in claim 7. Likewise, claim 23 refers to **"applying to the mold pattern surfaces an effective amount of a biodegradable pattern coating composition."** The binder in the '432 reference is not applied as a coating composition. It is mixed with the sand to bind the sand particles together.

In rejecting the claims of the present invention, the Office is not giving any weight to some of the features of the claims. The Office appears to be taking the position that the identification of a similar composition for an entirely different use can anticipate or render obvious method claims directed to an unexpected use of the composition.

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In view of the foregoing response, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are patentably distinct from the references cited and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record is respectfully requested. In the event the examiner maintains the rejection, applicants are filing concurrently herewith a notice of appeal. If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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